

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Good News, Week 10: Serving the Twin Cities

Introduction

How are you at writing letters and/or emails? Do you enjoy it? Do you quickly write out what you need to say or laboriously consider what you're writing?

God's Word

Read Jeremiah 29:1-13.

1. Jeremiah is sending a letter to the exiles in Babylon. They were hoping for a quick release from captivity (1-2 years). How might verses 4-6 dash their hopes?
2. In the group, share what you know about Nebuchadnezzar. If you google the name, look under Nebuchadnezzar II.
3. In verse 4, who is the one who carried the people into exile?
4. Why is this significant?
5. The exiles are living in the foreign land of their enemy, Babylon. What, specifically, would be difficult about hearing or reading verse 7?

Discussion

6. Would you have prayed for the welfare of those who just destroyed your life?
7. Verse 9 speaks to lies that the people wanted to believe. When have you wanted to believe something that you knew was not true?
8. Jesus says (John 8:31-32), "the truth will set you free." How can truth set you free even if it is painful to hear?
9. Verse 10 points us back to the undeserved love of God ("my gracious promise...to you"). Share one of God's grace-filled promises to you that you really enjoy.
10. How would verse 11 have been an encouragement and how can it be an encouragement to us today?

Prayer

Pray for greater understanding around the topic "Christians as exiles" (1 Peter 1:1).

Lord Jesus, help us to understand how we are exiles here on planet earth and how we can also live fully here, serving our neighbors and neighborhoods, and yet also maintain an eternal allegiance to our real home with you. Amen.

Pray over the words of Romans 8:28 (use the words of this passage to form your prayer).